

What is claimed is:

1. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

- 5 a) a message store for storing multimedia messages; and
 b) a plurality of data converters for converting
 messages in one medium to messages in another
 medium.

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2. A system according to claim 1 wherein said plurality
of data converters includes at least two selected from
the group consisting of a text to speech converter, a
15 speech to text converter, and a fax to text converter.

20 3. A system according to claim 1 further comprising
means for linguistically based searching of multiple
message types and for linguistically relating multiple
messages of different type.

25 4. A system according to claim 1 further comprising
means for assigning a reference number to each message.

5. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

- a) a message store for storing multimedia messages; and
- 5 b) means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

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6. A system according to claim 5 further comprising means for assigning a reference number to each message.

15 7. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

- a) a message store for storing multimedia messages;
- b) a plurality of data converters for converting messages in one medium to messages in another medium;
- 20 c) means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type and
- d) means for assigning a reference number to each message.

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8. A system according to claim 7 wherein said plurality of data converters includes at least two selected from the group consisting of a text to speech converter, a
5 speech to text converter, and a fax to text converter.

9. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox, comprising the steps of:

- 10
- a) storing messages of different types in a single mailbox; and
 - b) automatically converting messages from one medium to
15 another.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein said step of converting includes at least two selected from the group
20 consisting of converting text to speech, converting speech to text, and converting fax to text.

25 11. A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of linguistically searching multiple message types and linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

12. A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of assigning a reference number to each message.

5 13. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox, comprising the steps of:

a) storing messages of different types in a single mailbox; and

10 b) linguistically searching multiple message types and linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

15 14. A method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of assigning a reference number to each message.

15. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox,
comprising the steps of:

- 5 a) storing messages of different types in a single
 mailbox;
- b) automatically converting messages from one medium to
 another;
- 10 c) linguistically searching multiple message types and
 linguistically relating multiple messages of
 different type; and
- 15 d) assigning a reference number to each message.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein said step of
converting includes at least two selected from the group
20 consisting of converting text to speech, converting
 speech to text, and converting fax to text.